



**Bristol Bay Area
Health Corporation**
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*Bristol Bay Area
Health Corporation is a
tribal organization
representing 34
villages in
Southwest Alaska*

January 31, 2000

Mr. Jeff Ottesen, Chief of Statewide Planning
Division of Statewide Planning
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
3 132 Channel Drive, Room 200
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Mr. Ottesen:

We are in receipt of the 1/3/2000 Ivanof Bay letter to you requesting consideration in your Southwest Alaska Plan for the Stepovak airfield as an option to finding another suitable airport for their village. This makes good sense from our view. We agree that their current airport is too short and is unsafe under many weather conditions to get staff in/out of the village. It is very limiting for medivacs and patients, and requires a small plane without proper "air ambulance" type equipment to "shuttle" patients to the next largest and closest airport for transport to Anchorage and/or Dillingham. The time lost can be a loss of life. It might also be said that one is literally putting one's life in jeopardy landing on such a short road that doubles as an airport. The ocean is a few feet to one side and homes to the other as well as the west end.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION

William J. Bennett
for Robert J. Clark
Robert J. Clark

President/Chief Executive Officer

RJC/etb

c: BBAHC Board of Directors
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Bristol Bay Native Association
Village Council Presidents
Lake and Peninsula Borough
Joann Livermont, Executive Office Manager
Darrel C. Richardson, Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer

*To promote health
with competence,
a caring attitude
cultural sensitivity*